

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SIG-03 CU-04
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
EA/VLC:FZBROWN
HA:JMORIN
EUR/NE:DJDONCHI

-----077093 011801Z /66

R 010252Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084003

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, NO, CB

SUBJECT: EMBASSY ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA
TRIBUNAL

REF: OSLO 1481 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSY
ON INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE AND ITS PLANS
FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN OSLO IN APRIL. AS YOU ARE AWARE, IT
IS U.S. POLICY TO CALL ATTENTION TO FLAGRANT AND MASSIVE
ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA WHICH REFUGEES HAVE RE-
PTED. U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT USG WOULD SUPPORT
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A NEUTRAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
CAMBODIA, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE CAMBODIAN
AUTHORITIES WOULD ALLOW IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS TO UNDERTAKE
SUCH AN INVESTIGATION ON THEIR TERRITORY. DEPARTMENT
AGREES WITH EMBASSY ASSESSMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS VALUE
IN INDEPENDENT NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATION STUDY. WE WOULD NOT
WANT TO CREATE ANY IMPRESSION THAT COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS WERE

INSPIRED OR STAGE-MANAGED BY USG.

2. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE ENDORSES EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION THAT WE PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO "RUN" OR MANIPULATE HEARINGS.

WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY'S OFFERING PER DIEM AND HONORARIUM TO AMERICAN JOURNALIST JOHN BARRON, CO-AUTHOR OF MURDER OF A GENTLE LAND, WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIBUNAL MEETINGS PROVIDED THAT FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE CAN BE FOUND IN EMBASSY'S CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET.

3. DEPARTMENT IS ALSO AIRMAILING EMBASSY RELEVANT U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS, CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TESTIMONY AND SOME PRESS ARTICLES ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA FOR NORWEGIAN COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO ALREADY HAVE COPIES OF RECENT BOOKS ON CAMBODIA PUBLISHED IN UNITED STATES AND FRANCE MENTIONED IN THESE PRESS ARTICLES. WE ALSO ASSUME COMMITTEE HAS ALSO MADE CONTACT INDEPENDENTLY WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN EUROPE AND WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WHICH MIGHT HAVE MATERIAL ON THIS ISSUE.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE WISH TO RETAIN LOW PROFILE WHILE FACILITATING WORK OF COMMITTEE. IN VIEW OF TIME FACTOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO CONTACT 7 NAMED AMERICAN INVITEES TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS AND PLAN TO ATTEND APRIL MEETINGS.

5. FYI. CHARLES TWINING, WHOM COMMITTEE STATES IT HAS INVITED TO SERVE ON PANEL, IS ACTIVE DUTY FSO ON TRAINING ASSIGNMENT AT CORNELL. AS USG OFFICIAL, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR TWINING TO SERVE ON PANEL OF PRIVATE PARTICIPANTS. END FYI.

6. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA FEBRUARY-MARCH 1978, ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS RESOLUTION REQUESTING SYG INVITE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ITS COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. ANY CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR PRIVATE SOURCES IS TO BE PUT INTO A REPORT TO BE TRANSMITTED TO COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT SESSION. WORKING GROUP IS NOW ASSEMBLING MATERIAL TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT SESSION OF HRC (SEE GENEVA 4428 - BEING REPEATED OSLO). IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF RECORD OF NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE FINDINGS COULD BE REPORTED TO DEPART-

MENT INFO US MISSION GENEVA. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE084003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRJOHNSON/FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0589
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804103/aaaadjnw.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 696435a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OSLO 1481
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2825121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL
TAGS: SHUM, EAID, NO, CB
To: OSLO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/696435a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014